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SAYS SOVIETS AWAIT CHANCE TO PURGE CHERVENKOV;
SOVIET POLICE FORCE IN BULGARIA DESCRIBED

SPECULATES ON PREMIER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW -- Istanbul, Yeni Istanbul, 18 May 51

Bulgarian Premier Chervenkov recently visited the Kremlin to make certain explanations which Moscow considered essential. Such trips cannot be considered an indication of a long life or even of a long tenure in office. On the contrary, previous examples would indicate that Chervenkov will soon fall from sight. The Premier is charged with inability to maintain discipline because he has not conformed completely to Moscow methods. It is believed that Chervenkov was censured for failure to assure that the ministers in his cabinet conform strictly to Soviet orders.

According to some reports, Chervenkov has fled to a foreign country, but these reports are not true. The Bulgarian Premier was merely invited to Moscow. However, it is true that this invitation was announced to him by a group of Soviet police officials. Such a situation is not conducive to any argument.

Premier Chervenkov apparently has become ill. The Moscow climate is said to be good for certain illnesses. Chervenkov seems to have been subjected to a type of treatment in Moscow which has put others on the road to recovery or subjected them to a heart attack in a very short time. In the present instance, the ambulance was not called and no report was sent to the waiting Soviet doctors. It is not known whether or not Chervenkov gave the Kremlin satisfactory reports concerning the tragic situation in Bulgaria and whether or not he spoke of the fact that Communist measures have remained sterile, or of the secret but active resistance of the peasants. Neither can it be determined whether or not the fact that Chervenkov has been left in office arises from his having won Moscow's confidence. Some persons claim that the Soviets left Chervenkov in office because he could not be purged without serious political reverberations in the Eastern Bloc. To sacrifice Chervenkov, whom Soviet propaganda has characterized as a dyed-in-the-wool Communist, would not have been prudent. However, Chervenkov has been condemned, and the Soviets are simply waiting for the first favorable opportunity to oust him.

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It is possible that the discord between Chervenkov and Interior Minister Poptomov will provide the opportunity the Soviets seek. Poptomov has long been the spoiled child of Moscow. The two Bulgarian Communist chieftains hate each other; in fact, a violent quarrel occurred between them recently. In all probability Poptomov, acting on instructions from the Soviets, has dug Chervenkov's grave.

Discord in the Bulgarian Communist Party is increasing, and there is an obvious lack of confidence in the Fatherland Front. In fact, it would appear that there are certain "reactionaries" in the Bulgarian People's Front, such as followers of Kostov and members of the former Agrarian Party. All these elements are charged with being agents of Western capitalism. In fact, the Communist Party is now trying to eliminate its unwilling allies such as Socialists, members of the Agrarian Party, and all non Stalinists who aided in the establishment of the present regime. These elements, which are considered useless, have been removed from power, and some of them have been put into labor camps.

The prevailing discord in the Bulgarian Communist Party is so great that recently the Central Committee was obliged to purge eight of its members. Moreover, the Vice-President of the National Assembly has been removed from office and expelled from the party on charges of having sabotaged agricultural production. This year a harvest amounts to only one eighth of that normally obtained.

BULGARIAN POLICE TERROR DESCRIBED -- Istanbul, Yeni Istanbul, 12 May 51

Soviet "advisers" in Bulgaria have established a special police organization under their direct control, based on their experience in the MVD. This police force, which possesses unlimited authority, can place under observation or arrest anyone it desires, whether he be a cabinet minister, a high-ranking official, or even a security inspector. This police security organization is supported by militia and other special groups. Every citizen is under close observation. The Stekavitse groups, which were attached to the Minister of the Interior until 1950, were composed of true Communists. Now their name has been Russianized to Bazal. These groups are equipped with jeeps, motorcycles, trucks, radio equipment, and every other facility which would speedily enable them to intervene in any incident that occurs. Any demonstration, regardless of its nature or where it occurs, is stamped out immediately.

In the cities and towns of southwest Bulgaria especially, a 2230-hours curfew is in effect. This curfew is not applied in the villages, even so, no one is courageous or stupid enough to venture outside his home after dark. Anyone not abiding by the curfew knows that he will be charged with plotting or working in resistance networks. Besides, Communist patrols make the idea unpleasant.

Bulgarian prisons are filled with tens of thousands of people called "reactionaries." In fact, prisons are no longer sufficient, and many camps have been established for those sentenced to hard labor. The Communist authorities send to these camps all persons who fail to win the confidence of the regime. The normal stay at these camps is 6 - 12 months, but the time can be extended indefinitely. There are persons who have been in such camps for the past 4 years. The inmates, who cannot get good food and who generally sleep on the ground, are under the constant control of Communist political commissars. The camps are encircled with wire entanglements and are guarded by dogs.

Fifteen hundred convicts work in the mines and brick factories in Bogdanov and Pernik (now Dimitrovo). Some camps are located on the banks of the Danube, and dangerous agitators are kept on islands in the river. The inmates also include Communists branded as Titoists. There is a special women's camp at Noriadevo near Tutrakan in Dobrudzha. There are 30,000 Communist prisoners in Dimitrovo, Belene, and Nasarevo. About 4,000 so-called reactionary Turkish and Bulgarian families are kept in Sliven.

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REPORT HALF MILLION SOVIETS SETTLED IN BULGARIA -- Istanbul, Yeni Istanbul,
11 May 51

Edirne, 10 May -- The following report was obtained from a refugee from Silistra who asked that his name not be disclosed: "The Bulgarians expect the UN armies at any moment, but despite this, 6,000 people who revolted against the present Bulgarian regime have fled to the Balkan mountains. The Bulgarian government was thrown into panic when it learned that a cavalry and an infantry company which it had sent to stamp out the activities of these guerrillas had instead joined them. Following this incident, 500,000 Soviet civilians were settled in Sofia and vicinity."

The source declared that the information came from a Bulgarian who loved freedom as he does but who could not flee the country because he feared for the fate of his family.

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